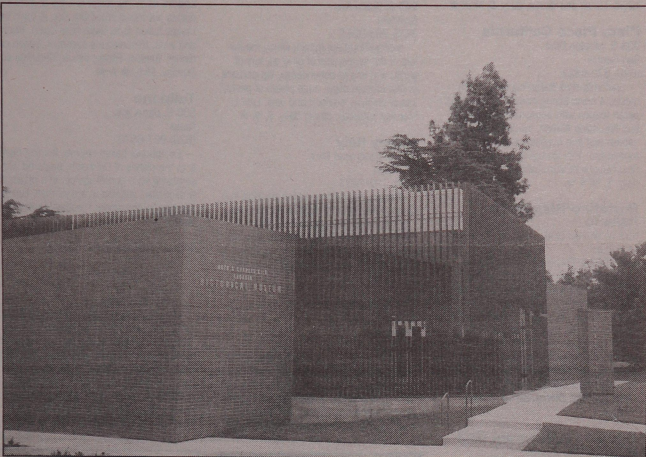


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## Lost and Found



NEW ARCADIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM traces the history of this interesting town.

## Toeing the Arcadia timeline

By Elizabeth Pomeroy

SOMETIMES a museum of a city's history can give you good ideas for organizing your own family's history. The Arcadia Historical Museum is just like that with its practical method for displaying items: A simple timeline.

This museum was opened just three months ago and is still being discovered by history buffs. It presents material gathered since the founding of the Arcadia Historical Society in 1954. These objects had been shown earlier in a temporary building, but now order has been brought to the wealth of collectibles.

Historical periods are grouped together as the visitor walks along the displays. The earliest time period chronicles the Native Americans, with artifacts from the Gabrieleno Indians, so named by padres at the San Gabriel Mission. Then the time of Mexican rule with California's last Mexican governor, Pio Pico, who granted the lands of present-day Arcadia to the Scottish trader Hugo Reid in 1845.

Reid's 13,000 acre property, called Rancho Santa Anita, covered much of the western San Gabriel Valley, from the

mission north to the San Gabriel Mountains. This vast spread was finally acquired by E.J. Lucky Baldwin in 1875.

Baldwin had made his fortune in the silver mines of the Comstock lode. He soon purchased 46,000 more acres for his Rancho Santa Anita, and developed famous horse racing stables, vineyards and orchards with thousands of fruit trees. Later subdividing his land, he announced it was the climate he was selling.

Arcadia was incorporated as an 11-square mile city in 1903, with Baldwin as mayor. By then it was a community of small farms, with a vibrant chicken industry. The chicken period passed into the present residential city. Other steps along this historical way were the heyday of Baldwin's Santa Anita Racetrack, and later the restoration of his estate as the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

So runs the museum's timeline, across two and a half centuries of events. The exhibits show us items of daily life all along the way. They are unusually clear and visible: the stone tools used by the Native Americans, the ledger of a farm business, the sign used by a housewife telling the iceman how much

ice to leave at her kitchen door.

And how does this relate to your own family history? As you gather for the holidays, or at your family reunion next summer, you might create your own family timeline. Have everyone bring an object or two from earlier generations — your grandfather's watch, and the pieced quilt carefully kept for years — and arrange these in a timeline. The eldest members present can fill in the stories. Gather family photos, too, and place them in your timeline. There is much to learn, and you'll honor your family by organizing its treasures.

**How to get there:** For more ideas on enjoying history visit the Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum at 380 W. Huntington Drive. From the 210 Freeway, exit at Baldwin Avenue and drive south; turn left on Huntington. Call (626) 446-8512.

*Where's your favorite lost-and-found treasure? We welcome your suggestions and comments on local landmarks. Write to Elizabeth Pomeroy, in care of Cheers!, 1210 N. Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790 or e-mail her at [catmint@pacbell.net](mailto:catmint@pacbell.net).*

